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The President's Daily Brief

February 18, 1975

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Table of Contents

Cambodia: The military situation deteriorated further over the weekend. *(Page 1)*

USSR-UK: Prime Minister Wilson concluded his five-day visit by signing a series of accords. *(Page 2)*

Note: Egypt-USSR *(Page 3)*

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/07/15 : CIA-RDP79T00936A012500010003-5

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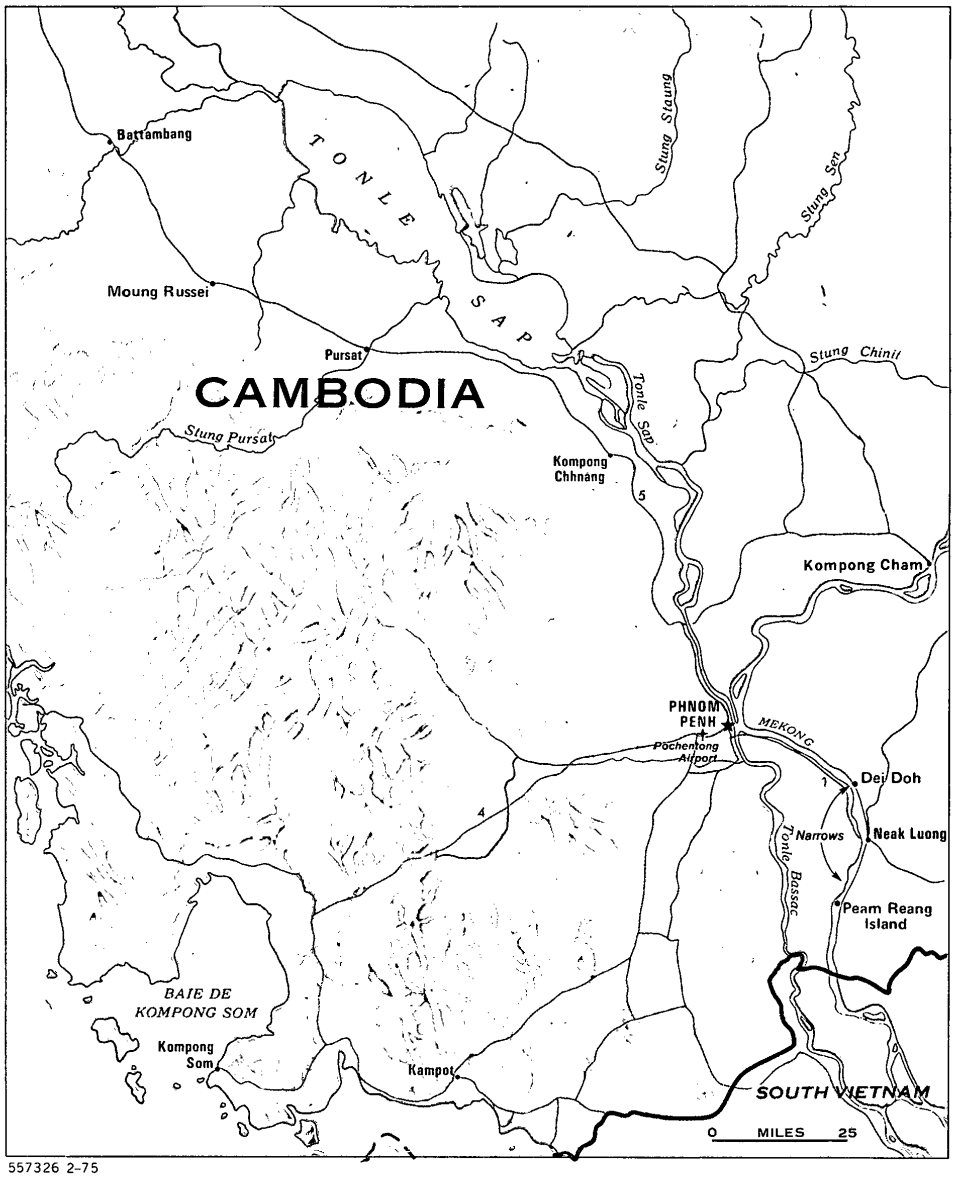

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CAMBODIA

The military situation deteriorated further over the weekend. The communists reportedly have overrun government positions on the Mekong River island of Peam Reang.

Loss of the island beachhead threatens remaining government positions south of Neak Luong and will delay security operations planned for the southern narrows. Without this foothold overlooking the narrows, it is doubtful that the government will be able to secure the riverbanks without a massive commitment of troops.

Northwest of Phnom Penh, the badly mauled 7th Division remains under almost constant attack, and remnants of one of its brigades were forced to pull back Sunday. Intercepts show that the communists are aware that they face a weakened force and that they intend to press their advantage.

In the far northwest, the insurgents have occupied most of Moung Russei, a town astride Route 5 southeast of Battambang. Reinforcements from Battambang and Pursat have been dispatched to assist remaining government defenders.

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USSR-UK

British Prime Minister Wilson concluded his five-day visit to the Soviet Union yesterday after signing a series of accords that should help to improve bilateral relations.

Included in the package are:

--A protocol on consultations.

--A declaration on nuclear nonproliferation.

--Long-term agreements for trade development, economic and industrial cooperation, and increased cooperation in science, technology, and medicine.

--A joint statement including declarations on such international issues as Cyprus, the Middle East, and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Soviets gave the visit extensive press treatment and hinted that the UK may now figure more importantly in Soviet relations with Western Europe.

Moscow's treatment of the visit apparently also was aimed at demonstrating General Secretary Brezhnev's good health and vigor. Brezhnev met with Wilson three times during the visit. The General Secretary, Premier Kosygin, and Foreign Minister Gromyko accepted invitations to visit Britain, but no dates for such trips were announced.

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NOTE

An Egyptian *ministerial delegation arrived in the* Soviet Union *yesterday for trade and economic talks.*

The five-day visit was arranged during Foreign Minister Gromyko's visit to Cairo two weeks ago. Members of the Egyptian delegation told the press that they will discuss arrangements for financing existing economic agreements, rescheduling payments on Egypt's debts to the USSR, Soviet assistance for Egyptian industrial projects, and an expansion of Soviet-Egyptian trade within the framework of Egypt's next five-year development plan.

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